



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: Germany Site Visit July 29, 2015, Minutes

Date: July 29th

Time: 0900-1600 hrs

Locations: USAEUR Mission Command Center and Joint Maneuver Training Center

Format: briefings and round table discussion

Attendees:

Chairman - GEN Carter F. Ham (USA, Ret)

Vice Chairman – HON Thomas R. Lamont (ARNGUS, Ret)

Member – GEN Larry R. Ellis (USA, Ret)

Designated Federal Officer (DFO): Mr. Donald Tison

MG Raymond W. Carpenter (ARNGUS, Ret) Executive Director, NCFA Staff

COL Kristen Dixon, NCFA Staff

LTC John Adams, (DFO Executive Officer) NCFA Staff

LTC Sean Spence, NCFA Staff

LTC Timothy Palmer, NCFA Staff

LTC Brian Stevenson, NCFA Staff

CPT Sarah Moore, NCFA Staff

Mr. Scott Sharp, NCFA Staff

Mr. Andrew Feickert, NCFA Staff

Documents Submitted to Commission: none

Meeting Summary

The USAREUR Commander invited the Commissioners and NCFA Staff to listen to his weekly meeting with subordinate commanders and staff from 0900 to 0945hrs. There was no interaction between Commissioners and participants. Commissioners and NCFA Staff then moved to airfield for transport.

Commissioners and NCFA Staff were transported from Wiesbaden Army Airfield to Grafenwoehr Army Airfield (GAAF) by 2 x UH-60 aircraft provided by USAREUR. Flight time for trip was 1000 to 1130hrs.

After moving to the headquarters building at 1145hrs, Commissioners met with 4th Infantry Division (ID) Mission Command Element (MCE). USAREUR attendees were MG Duane Gamble, 21st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) CG; CSM Rodney Rhoades, 21st TSC

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CSM; and Mr. Dan McCormack, USAREUR G-3 Staff. 4th ID MCE attendees were BG Timothy Daughtery, 4th ID Deputy Commanding General (DCG) and selected MCE Staff.

The DFO and Commissioner Lamont provided opening remarks and introductions. The DFO discussed the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to all the discussions for the day.

BG Daughtery explained that the MCE provides the intermediate HQs between USAREUR and U.S. tactical forces participating in Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR). The 4th ID is constantly juggling three or four missions and is spread out world-wide supporting different Combatant Commands. The Division HQs needs help in keeping track of all of its deployed units, but the 25% manning reductions in staff makes this extremely difficult.

There are no RC soldiers in in the MCE because the 4th ID can only employ RC Soldiers on 14- to 21 day rotations, which are impractical given current mission requirements.

The 4th ID MCE discussion ended at 1300hrs and the topic shifted to the European Activity Set (EAS) when personnel from the 405th Army Field Support Command (AFSC) joined the meeting. 405th personnel attending were COL Beatulis, 405th Army Field Support Command Commander, and LTC Schultz, Field Support Battalion (FSB) Commander.

The DFO discussed the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to all the discussions for the day. COL Beatulis then explained the EAS supports both USEUCOM and USAFRICOM. 405th AFSC is currently building the EAS at two locations, Manheim and Grafenwoehr Germany. These sets are used for rotational training events and can also be used for operations if needed.

The command is also building an activity set for USAFRICOM in Italy. 405th provides brigade logistics support teams (BLSTs) to the 173rd Airborne BCT, the 2nd CR, and the 12th CAB. As the unit shifts from contractor maintenance to “green suit” (military mechanics) maintenance, they are experiencing lower readiness rates. There is a budget request for indoor storage facilities for the EAS. Currently, all equipment is stored outdoors and the command expects to recoup the cost of indoor facilities by the savings in maintenance required because of outside storage.

COL Beatulis explained that in essence the 405th Army Field Support Command combines Contracting Command with an Army Field Support Brigade. The EAS discussion concluded at 1425hrs.

Joint Multi-National Training Command (JMTC) personnel then joined the meeting: COL Adam Loveless, JMTC Chief of Staff, and selected JMTC Staff.

At 1430, the DFO and Commissioner Lamont provided opening remarks and introductions. The DFO discussed the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to all the discussions for the day.

COL Loveless explained JMTC’s responsibility to train USAREUR units, Regionally Aligned Force units, and Global Response Force (GRF) units. JMTC also helped to develop allied interoperability through training and having trained Soldiers from over 40 different nations this year. JMTC has as many as 19 different countries in a single exercise this year.

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The Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC), which falls under JMTC, conducts six to seven fully instrumented brigade-level rotations annually. The Army National Guard (ARNG) State Partnership for Peace (SPP) and USAR Annual Training deployments are critical assets needed to support and run these exercises. USAR and ARNG engineers help modify facilities and ranges. RC Soldiers also serve as Observer Controllers (OCs) for training rotations. A shortage of OCs impacts our organic ability to support rotations.

At 1600hrs, the Commissioners ended NCFA work for the day. While the Commissioners and some of the NCFA Staff departed GAAF via UH-60 for Wiesbaden, LTC Spence, CPT Moore, and Mr. Sharp remained at Grafenwoehr in order to travel the next day to Illesheim to conduct a staff-only visit to a rotational aviation unit. Mr. Tison and LTC Adams traveled to Stuttgart for non-NCFA Army business.